

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02913 181030Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----181041Z 130092 /12

R 180939Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4341  
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2913

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT ALSO PASS CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS IS LE  
SUBJ: SOUTH LEBANON

REF: TEL AVIV 4407

1. AMBASSADOR LEWIS' AMAZEMENT IS UNDERSTANDABLE, BUT RECORD OF DISSIMULATION BY ALL PARTIES IN AREA IS SUCH THAT EVERYONE AUTOMATICALLY BELIEVES THE WORST ABOUT THE OTHERS.

2. LOCAL AGITATION ABOUT SOUTH COULD CONCEIVABLY BE RESULT OF PLO DISINFORMATION CAMPAIGN, BUT MASS HYSTERIA SEEMS MORE LIKELY EXPLANATION. ARGUMENT AGAINST BEGIN'S DOING ANYTHING ADVENTURESOME GIVEN IN LAST PARA REFTEL SOUNDS VERY REASONABLE TO US, AND IS WHAT I HAVE BEEN TELLING LEBANESE, BUT THEY ARE TOO MUCH PREY TO RUMOR AND ANXIETY TO PUT MUCH FAITH IN IT. THEY STILL THINK ISRAELIS CONSIDER SOUTH LEBANON TERRA IRREDENTA BECAUSE ISRAELIS HAVE EXPLICITLY COVETED LITANI IN  
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PAST. TO THEM, FACT THAT AREA NOT CONTROLLED BY LEBANESE, PLUS FACT PALESTINIAN ACTIVITIES GIVE PLAUSIBLE EXCUSE FOR INTERVENTION, PLUS EXISTENCE POTENTIAL ALLIES AMONG CHRISTIANS, MAKE THIS OPPORTUNE TIME FOR ISRAELIS TO MAKE A GRAB, PARTICULARLY IF ONE ACCEPTS THEIR THESIS THAT BEGIN WOULD REALLY LIKE TO DERAIL OUR SETTLEMENT EFFORTS. THIS HAIR-RAISING

SCENARIO BECOMES ALL THE MORE PLAUSIBLE LOCALLY  
BECAUSE OF EXPLICIT MARONITE INTEREST IN SEPARATE  
STATE AND RECORD OF MILITARY COOPERATION WITHHPSRAEL.

3. WE VERY GRATIFIED, HOWEVER, TO LEARN OF REASSURING  
COMMENTS FROM SHLOMO GAZIT AND EZER WEIZMAN (ALTHOUGH  
LATTER'S REMARKS ABOUT CHRISTIAN ENCLAVES REITERATES  
RATIONALE FOR UNILATERAL INTERVENTION ON LEBANESE  
TERRITORY, JUSTIFICATION FOR WHICH WILL BE UP TO  
ISRAELIS). I HAVE BEEN TELLING ALL AND SUNDRY HERE  
THAT ISRAELIS NOT UP TO ANYTHING, BUT IT IS GOOD TO  
HAVE SOME EXPLICIT SUPPORT FOR THAT THESIS FROM AUTHORITATIVE  
SOURCES IN ISRAEL.

PARKER

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CINCEUR.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 18-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977BEIRUT02913  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770218-0917  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 7870827a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 77 TEL AVIV 4407  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 04-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2105371  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SOUTH LEBANON  
**TAGS:** PINS, PBOR, IS, LE  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/7870827a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009